

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

AUGUST 2013

President's Message

By Alex King



The Capitol Clarion is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

Marti Dennis, Managing Editor

Bob Dennis, Technical Support

Bill Geach, Eternal Editor

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month**. Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at:

mdennis1@att.net

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956
Sacramento, CA 95819

A Good Time Was Had By All...

Over 65 CSCMVA members gathered at the **Mingle & Munch** event on August 8, and the feedback indicated a good time was had by all. No program – just some introductions – ample and good food, mellow guitar music and an opportunity for members just to get to know one another. Some fun conversations; some fun revelations of member histories and a great “get together.”

Personally, I was very pleased that a good number of our members were able to get to know each other as requested by our member survey. And, I was a little saddened that more of you missed this social gathering. Of course, I know that many of you had other commitments or concerns: vacation, health issues, time, and distance, but the turnout was slightly more than half of our membership. While I appreciate that our first commitment is to the California State Capitol, its history and its grandeur, an important component of our success is an active and connected membership association where we build personal relationships and share information. This vitality energizes and enhances our visitor's experience when they walk in the Capitol entrances. We look forward to sharing this social experience with more of you the next time we gather for a relaxed membership activity!

Thanks go to Leslie Cooper, Marti Dennis, Norma Leopold and Patty Woods for their spectacular efforts to make **Mingle & Munch** a success.

Let's Keep Working ...

California's Admission Day – September 9, is fast approaching. Traditionally the CSCMVA offers ice cream and cake to Capitol visitors. Come join us. We'll be serving “goodies” to visitors, at the North Doors, on Monday, the 9th. Come join us in a fun, and (sometimes) messy event.

WI “Refresher” Training – You'll be getting separate notice of a training opportunity on September 18th to bring us all up-to-date on challenges at the West Information Desk.

Women's Suffrage – Our “Living History” recognition of women's right to vote, will again take place October 13th. We still need many volunteers to help Capitol visitors appreciate the valiant efforts of women that fought for the vote. Again, let your willingness to help be known. Join us in this interesting and humorous re-telling of the significant campaign victory of the early 1900's.

~ Alex



2013 Board of Directors

Front (L to R): Marylin Thompson, Bob Dennis, Alex King, David Keck; Back (L to R): Gary Stonehouse, Chris Tyler, Marita Martin, Leslie Cooper, Connie Clark, Bob Dreyer

2013 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
David Keck	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marylin Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
Leslie Cooper	Member
Bob Dreyer	Member
Marita Martin	Member
Christine Tyler	Member
Gary Stonehouse	Past President

CSCMVA Board Meeting Minutes:

August 7, 2013

By Marylin Thompson

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Bob Dennis** reported that the budget is in good shape, and the current expenses are for the member social event in August and reimbursement for parking expenses. Bookstore gross receipts for July was \$2,547.

BOOKSTORE REPORT: **Mary Geach** reported that a book about the Capitol Park and Sacramento history has been a brisk seller. She also displayed a new book, *Aesop in California* which has great stories for children, wonderful illustrations and information about the flora and fauna in the state. Alex requested members to help – after Suffrage Day -- with inventorying books on hand. Connie is still working on getting posters finalized for placement in strategic places to advertise the Bookstore to Capitol visitors.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: **Diane Rich** reported that there are currently 112 Association members.

STATE PARKS REPORT: **Matt Bellah** distributed a list of items which could be purchased, repaired or replaced using CSCMVA funds. Among the items listed was the purchase of more replica Double Eagle coins for the Treasurer's Office, since they continue to disappear. It was moved and seconded to authorize Matt to look into coin sources and prices. A subsequent vote will be taken among the Board Members.

Terry Cook reported that there are now more volunteers coming in on weekends, for which Parks is very grateful. David Keck inquired if the informational brochures could be produced in more languages, as visitors who speak Russian, Dutch and Korean have been more frequent. Parks has almost finalized a Russian translation. Alex asked Terry to keep a tally for a month of languages spoken by visitors, so CSCMVA efforts could be focused on the language(s) of greatest need.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Member Survey: **Marylin Thompson** reported that we have successfully responded to many of the comments provided in the survey including scheduling a social event, convening a committee to address some of the WI desk issues and the scheduling of a WI refresher course.

Web design: **Randall Williams** reported that considerable progress was made last month. He has successfully made the transition to a portal on the State's website for a page of our own. He provided the url for us to check it out. [Please see a separate article about this link.] The online scheduling feature will be available when Randall can integrate member information from Volgistics (the membership data management program).

August Social: Marti Dennis reported that the event will be held Thursday, August 8 between 4:00 and 6:30 PM at the Northridge Country Club. Sixty-seven people have signed up, and Northridge has golf carts to help attendees to move from their cars to the Club entrance.

California Admission Day (September 9): Sheri Routh volunteered to organize the cake and ice cream, and she will enlist a few helpers, hopefully some from the new volunteer class.

Suffrage Living History Day: Leslie Cooper reported that acting and support roles have been assigned and will be sent out next week. There remains a need for more volunteers to fill the halls with marching suffragists and anti-suffragists. Leslie and Lynn Cook are co-chairs of this event.

Training Opportunities:

Clem Dougherty's training on significant governors was rated as "fantastic" by all. However, we will need to schedule a second session for him to complete the presentation of his material.

Folsom Powerhouse tour will be at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, **September 4**. It will be followed by a brown bag, bring-your-own-lunch and the 1:00 PM Board Meeting. There will be no charge for parking if we print out and bring a parking pass that Matt will make available. Carpools are encouraged.

A WI Desk refresher "course" is scheduled for **September 18**. More information is forthcoming. All those who currently work on the desk, and those who wish to, are encouraged to attend.

Historic Rooms: Volunteer staffing of the historic rooms was discussed, and docents were encouraged to bring a docent partner. Also discussed was the potential for development of scripts that can be "acted" in the rooms.

Membership List Updates: The membership list is now up to date.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly CSCMVA Board meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month.

The September 4 meeting will be held at the Folsom Powerhouse Conference Center and will begin at 1:00 PM.

Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the *Clarion*, cards have been sent to the following members:

Ann Rost – Get Well Wishes

Tom and Ann Rost – Sympathy upon the loss of Tom's mother

Marylin Thompson – Sympathy upon the loss of her father

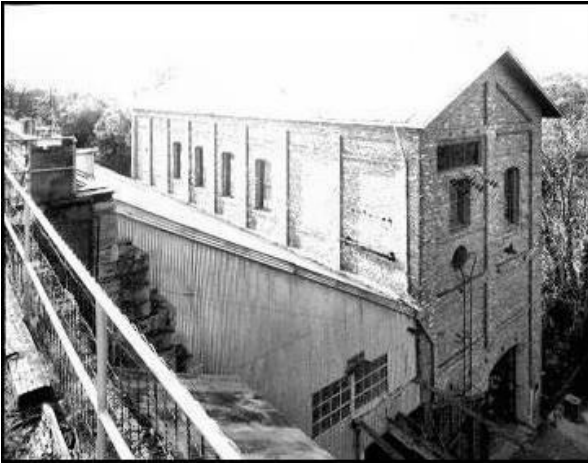
Caesar Abate – Thinking of You

Karen Rea - Thinking of You



If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of our group. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425 -1909.

Training Opportunity: September 4 at the Folsom Powerhouse



Folsom Powerhouse circa 1895

The **Folsom Powerhouse**, site of our next training opportunity at **11:00 AM on Wednesday, September 4**, is an important part of Sacramento history.

Through the vision of H.P. Livermore, the Folsom facility is an example of the important advance in the commercial application of electricity. Harnessing the power of the American River, the Powerhouse was built in 1895. The opening included a “grand electric carnival,” complete with a parade through downtown Sacramento and a 100-gun salute!

Carpooling to the training is recommended due to limited parking space. Matt Bellah will arrange for the e-mail of parking passes which can be printed at home and should be displayed on the dashboard of your car.

A Brown Bag lunch will follow the tour, and the September Board Meeting will occur at its regular 1:00 time – both at the Powerhouse site.

Admission Day: September 9



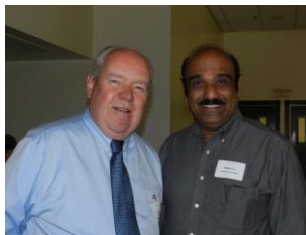
Monday, September 9, is the **163rd anniversary of the date California joined the Union**. Following a long-standing tradition, CSCMVA volunteers, under the leadership of **Sheri Routh**, will be serving ice cream and “birthday cake” to Capitol staff and visitors over the noon hour. Volunteers are needed to help Sheri set up canopies (a couple of strong men would be very helpful!) and supplies. Please contact Sheri at (916) 966-2113 if you can help. Newer volunteers are especially invited to participate in this fun event!

Reflections on the Recent “Mingle and Munch” Social

Thanks to the beautiful surroundings at the Northridge Country Club, interesting volunteers and guests, wonderful and plentiful appetizers, and relaxing music, the “Mingle and Munch” event was a total success. The 3 - 4 word “Catalysts for Conversation” on our nametags helped to get acquainted with volunteers and guests and to learn interesting facts (travel, hobbies, former occupations and family life) of all who attended. Committee members who organized this effort were Leslie Cooper, Norma Leopold, Patty Wood and Marti Dennis.



Laurie Dunlap and Patricia Rodoni



Alex King and San Bhakta



Diane Rich, Bobby Scoggan
and Lynn Cook

California Women's Suffrage Living History Day: October 13

There are 51 volunteers who will be fulfilling many roles in this fun and exciting event for both participants and the public. By the time you read this issue of the **Clarion**, you should be advised of your role and, if appropriate, have a copy of the script.

Rehearsals, all at 5:00 PM, are as follows:

Thursday, September 26

Thursday, October 3

Thursday, October 10

Actors, actresses and lead guides need to attend all three rehearsals. All participants need to attend the last rehearsal.

Bernadette Hicks and Barbara Smith, publicity chairs, will be contacting various publications with essential event information, but don't neglect the value of telling your family and friends about this event!



Lynn Cook

Lynn Cook and Leslie Cooper, Chairs; Mary Spitzer, Co-Chair, and Connie Clark, Director, each wish to thank everyone who has volunteered to make this day a success.



CSCMVA Website Goes Live!

By Randall Williams

Association members now have our very own website! Because the work that has been accomplished is now on a portal within the California State Parks' system, for all intents and purposes the site is "live" and you are encouraged to access this service at the following URL:

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

Your initial access is available via a copy-and-paste of the above URL to your browser's search window. As a part of this initial access, we encourage you to save the site to your Bookmarks or Favorites for convenient access in the future.

Training sessions are planned over the weeks ahead that will include use of this site and the associated scheduling website. In the meantime, the following outline may be helpful.

When you first access the site you will be viewing the CSCMVA **Home page**. From that page you are able to navigate (via tabs) to pages presently titled: Roster; Scheduling; Clarion; Events; Photos; Committees; Training; Business; and Contacts. A current roster of our members is available by selecting the icon immediately below the picture on the "**Roster**" page. For the "**Scheduling**" page, work is proceeding toward attaching an icon that will take you to a separate website that will enable you to sign-up from home on your personal computer for the various docent services that we provide at the Capitol. (In the meantime, updated on a weekly basis, current scheduling for five weeks is available on this web page for your review.) One year of *Capitol Clarion* issues are accessible for your use upon visiting the "**Clarion**" page. Upcoming opportunities for the members are highlighted on the "**Events**" page. Our fascinating collection of photographs can now be featured on the "**Photos**" page. We are in the midst of cataloguing the impressive list of committees supporting the association, and you will be able to reference this resource on the "**Committees**" page. The "**Training**" page is designed for featuring the wealth of training resources available to our membership. The "**Business**" page is under construction for storing such

information as Board agendas and minutes. Finally, there is a “**Contacts**” page for ready reference.

Our website effort now shifts to that of maintenance and refinement. As an “owner” of the site, your recommendations for its improvement will be welcomed!

Updating Volunteer Member Information:

Diane Rich requests that members please contact her with any changes to their contact information (home and cell phone numbers, address, e-mail) so that she can maintain an accurate and up-to-date membership list. Diane’s contact information is as follows: 916-421-1136 by phone or dfritzrich@yahoo.com by e-mail.



Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain Scotty Hodges

This multi-talented gentleman became a Docent thanks to the persuasive powers of Lynn Cook and Ann Just. He met Lynn when he was her mentor at the Crocker and met Ann on tours for the “Art in Public Places” Program. He is a Californian via **Muskogee, Oklahoma**. His parents and grandparents were farmers involved in the Dust Bowl movement to California back and forth in the 30s and 40s. After WWII, in which his father served; the family settled in Arizona. As a military family, they moved often. He attended high school in three different cities, graduated in **Albuquerque, NM**, where as an All-State football Running Back, he earned a place in the school’s Sports Hall of Fame.



Ron Lauchner

In his teenage years, he spent a good deal of time in Winslow, AZ, an Air Force Radar Site where his father was assigned, “**Standing on the Corner**” watching the cars go by on **old Route 66**. After high school, his father was transferred to Germany, so **Ron Lauchner** went off to Europe where he studied at a University, traveled and worked. He spent eight years alternating between living in Europe and a dozen US states. He says: “**Those years in Europe were a major influence on my life. I received an education and appreciation for aspects of life I had not experienced ...: different cultures, history, opera/classical music, art, etc.**” When he returned stateside, he entered the **University of Maryland** and earned a **Bachelor of Arts in History**. Later, he earned a **Master of Arts** in Counseling/Psychology at Ball State University. After graduating from the U of M, he received a draft notice, but volunteered for the Air Force instead and was awarded an Officer’s Commission.

Surprisingly, the Air Force appealed to him and almost three decades later, he found himself retiring as a Colonel despite originally thinking he would serve only the minimum commitment! During those years, Ron served in a wide variety of locations performing diverse duties as a Non-Flying Officer. Two early assignments were at Travis, and Edwards Air Force Bases, California where he was able to experience North and South – with a definite preference for Northern California. During the “Cold War” era, he spent five more years in Europe, due in part to his prior life experience there. He then spent the last five years of his career at Air Force Headquarters at the Pentagon.

Ron's wife, Kay, is also from a military family. Together, they have raised four children, two of whom also served in the military. One was a Stealth Fighter Pilot; another an Explosive Ordinance Disposal Technician ("bomb squad"); another son and his wife are Airline Pilots, and a daughter is a Marketing Director at major resorts. Their children, plus eight grandchildren, reside in California. With Kay's mom, they moved to Auburn from Ocean Springs, MS, to be near their children and their families.

Unfortunately, after completing class training last summer, Ron underwent a Heart Bypass Operation causing him to miss several months. Thankfully, he has returned and is working hard to make up for lost time. Terry Cook is encouraging him to refresh his skills in German and assist our German speaking visitors. He admits he was fairly fluent in German years ago, but says these many years without exercising that skill may now be trying. He suggests he might be comfortable with a tour group of German first graders, as that is probably the level of his current fluency.

Ron has been a Volunteer Art Docent for many years. When asked why he chose the Capitol and what he enjoys about serving here, his response was that he felt a move to a more history-oriented program. He felt that his love of history and many years as an Art Museum Docent dealing with and enjoying the public would be a definite asset in the performance of Capitol docent duties. He stressed that every time he walks into the Capitol he is inspired by: the building; being with exceptional docents including one that he calls "**a very special mentor- Lynn Cook**"; and with enthusiastic Park Service staff members. He especially enjoys being in the Historical Rooms and the interaction with the diversity of people from other states and countries. He thinks small groups in these rooms provide much more of a one-on-one sharing of information than he has previously experienced in his docent life, and he really enjoys those encounters.

In his "retirement", Ron has taught college courses and GED study classes, worked with Adult Literacy programs and served as a Docent at four art museums, including the New Orleans Museum of Art. He also served several years with the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, and Art in Public Places Program. He clarifies that he is by no means an artist but his early years in Europe left him an avid fan. He says his most important and enjoyable retirement "duties" have been his role in the life of his growing grandchildren.

Ron confesses that he really enjoys watching the political world spin around us as we go about our docent duties. His military years, particularly at the Pentagon, involved quite a bit of political interaction with many government agencies as well as Congress and its myriad of committees. Activities surrounding bills, budgets, and hearings were an integral part of his military duties for a time which made life for him both fascinating, and frustrating. He says he has empathy for folks who must testify at hearings; react to budget manipulations; etc.! Now he is quite happy to just be a spectator and not a participant!

It may be a surprise to know that all of Ron's activities in the military are still **not open** for discussion. Although the "Cold War" supposedly ended some years ago, he advises that many subjects are still classified or just **not** discussed. Disappointingly, while he has no James Bonds type racy stories, he once was headed for a "song and dance career." Performing as part of an ensemble, he was in in **West Side Story** and **My Fair Lady** the summer after college. According to him, all concerned recognized that it was the perfect example of the Peter Principle at work; he had reached his level of incompetence so ending that "career." Here, he is clearly in his element and will continue to hone his skills and rise to a level of even higher competence—Scotty's Principle!

Special Feature: Did You Know...about the Manila Galleons?

By Clem Dougherty

[This is the second in a two-part piece about the Manila galleons and their journey east to North America and California. For a brief refresher... Clem described that from 1572 to 1769, the only regular contact the Spanish had with California was by ships traveling down the California coast once a year between Manila (under Spanish rule) in the Philippines and Acapulco in Mexico. These ships were called the **"Manila Galleons."** The galleons were sailing ships dependent on the prevailing winds to move between their destinations. Ships sailing west from Mexico to the Philippines could follow almost a direct line with "tail winds" pushing them from behind. That journey took approximately 3 months. Returning west, however, was not as easy, as the galleons had to travel from Manila north to the coast of Japan where they could use the west-to-east prevailing wind. From there they sailed across the Pacific to Cape Mendocino off the CA coast before heading south to Acapulco. This journey took twice as long as the trip from Mexico to Manila.] *For more information from Clem's July piece, please refer to the July **Clarion** using the new CSCMVA website: <http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>*

Did You Know...(Part Two)

Round trip the Manila galleons sailed 18,000 miles. Ordinarily, only one ship a year sailed in each direction. Manila became a gathering point for people wanting to use the galleons from all over East Asia: China, Ceylon, Indo-China, Indonesia, Thailand, India, the Spice Islands (now the Moluccas) to name a few. The ships were extremely lucrative. From Acapulco to Manila, the ships carried mostly silver and gold coming from the mines of both Mexico and Peru and manufactured goods from Europe. Asia's demand for silver appeared to be unquenchable. From Manila to Acapulco the ships carried clove, cayenne, curry, cinnamon, black pepper, china dishes, jewels such as rubies, pearls, diamonds, emeralds, delicate porcelain, finely woven rugs, cotton cloth, ivory, and most of all, Chinese silk. Likewise, the European demand for Asian goods appeared equally unquenchable.

There was, however, a dark underside to the voyages. On more than 40 occasions the ships were either wrecked or lost at sea. In one year 1655-57, four galleons were lost, and during the next 150 years sunken ships lay all along the established routes. Disease, particularly scurvy, took a heavy toll in lives on the long journey from Manila to Acapulco. In one instance in the 1600s sailors off the coast of Mexico came upon a galleon drifting aimlessly in the sea and upon boarding the ship found everyone aboard dead. To compound the problem English pirates preyed upon the galleons. Sir Francis Drake entered the Pacific in 1578 and began capturing Spanish merchant ships loaded with Asian goods. To the English the Manila galleons became the world's greatest prize.

Even though there had been three Spanish naval expeditions sent from Mexico to chart the California coast (Cabrillo in 1542, Cermeño in 1595, and Vizcaino in 1602), Spain's regular contact with California for the 197 years prior to 1769 was marginal at best and limited to one ship a year sailing down its coast. In the early 1800s Napoleon Bonaparte placed his brother Joseph upon the Spanish throne and set off a civil war in Spain to oust the French. Spain became pre-occupied with its own internal problems and no longer kept a tight control over its empire. At the same time independence movements began springing up in the Spanish empire including in Mexico which ultimately won its independence from Spain in 1821. Thus the Manila galleons fell victim to all this unrest and ended altogether in 1815.

(Sources: Rawls and Bean: California, An Interpretive History, 9th ed., pp.27-28; National Geographic, Sept., 1990, pp.39-56 Parry, J.H., The Spanish Seaborne Empire, pp. 41 & 44-45; Sale, Kirkpatrick, The Conquest of Paradise, Christopher Columbus and the Columbian Legacy, pp. 7, 15, 16, 22, 27, 58-59, 122, 123.)

*(Editor's Note: The Special Features column is dedicated to interesting articles about California, our CA State Capitol or visits to other state capitols. CSCMVA members are encouraged to share experiences and/or researched information in this column. For inclusion in the **Clarion**, please send articles to Marti Dennis at mdennis1@att.net)*

Upcoming Events:

Folsom Powerhouse Tour and Board Meeting:	Wednesday, September 4
California Admission Day:	Monday, September 9
WI "Refresher Course:"	Wednesday, September 18
Rehearsals for Womens' Suffrage Event:	Thursdays, Sept. 26, Oct. 3 and 10
Women's Suffrage Living History:	Sunday, October 13
Capitol Holiday Music:	Daily, December 1 through 23
Annual Meeting & Luncheon:	TBD, January 2014

Volunteer Program website:

<http://capitolmuseum.tem.parks.ca.gov/volunteerprogram>

Capitol Museum website: <http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov/>



Volunteer Coordinator: **324-0319**
Rachel Martinez

Tour Guide Office: 324-0333

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day